

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-25. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-25.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure as exceeding 150 words in length. Applicant notes that the abstract conformed to 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b) at the time the present application was filed, but that paragraph of the rules was subsequently amended. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended the abstract. Applicant submits the Examiner's objection to the abstract has been obviated.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-15, and 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,509,123) in view of Pitcher et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,142). Regarding claims 12-15, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Regarding claims 1-5 and 18-22, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18. Applicant submits that the Dobbins et al. reference pertains to older technology that suffers from deficiencies, such as the use of inherently slow procedures (col. 10, lines 23 and 24), which can be especially problematic in large networks with multiple accessible networks and hosts, as are now commonly used. Moreover, Dobbins et al. expressly teach away from use of generating a specific forwarding table for each of a plurality of forwarding engines (i.e., each forwarding engine having its own forwarding table), as Dobbins et al. state, in col. 7, lines 37-40, "Also, each engine only know its own configuration information and only knows how to receive and transmit packets on the one interface it is associated with. Each forwarding engine accesses a common forwarding table."

The Examiner relies upon col. 9, lines 12-19 and 23-29, of Dobbins et al. to allege that Dobbins et al. teach obtaining registration information from a plurality of forwarding engines. The cited portion of Dobbins et al. states, "...This is done by registering its...with the internal forwarding table...." However, claim 12 states "...wherein the route computation engine receives registration information..." amended claim 1 states, "...obtaining at a route computation engine registration information..." and amended claim 18 states, "...obtain at a route computation engine registration information..." Applicant submits that the cited portion of Dobbins et al. fails to disclose any involvement of a route computation engine in relation to obtaining registration information. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1-25 are allowable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the teachings of col. 10, lines 21-27, of Dobbins et al. do not meet the limitation of “a specific data forwarding operation.” Thus, Applicant submits that claims 6 and 7 are allowable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al.

Regarding claims 9-11, 24, and 25, Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, Applicant notes that the Examiner’s assertion that “Dobbins further discloses packet configuration information determines packet formats (i.e., class of packets) of packets exchanged using multiple shared traffic flows” is not relevant to claims 10, 11, or 25, as such claims do not include limitations related to packet configuration information. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 11 and 25 are allowable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al. Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 9 and 24, which are dependent upon amended base claims 1 and 18, are also allowable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins et al. in view of Steeves et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,185). Regarding claims 16 and 17, Applicant respectfully disagrees. As the Examiner notes, “Dobbins does not expressly disclose controlling the forwarding engines with one route computation engine.” Moreover, Applicant submits the Examiner’s assertion, “Steeves discloses controlling multiple forwarding engines by way of a route computation engine/processor” (citing element 30 of Fig. 4 of Steeves et al.) is inconsistent with the actual disclosure of Steeves et al. Applicant submits that element 30 of Steeves et al. is disclosed as merely a “processor,” and that “processor 30 consults route calculation and control 36 to determine the path on which to transmit the packet and forwards the packet to on of a plurality of forwarding engines...” (col. 6, lines 22-26 of Steeves et al.). Thus, Applicant submits that processor 30 is a different element than route calculation and control 36. Moreover, Applicant submits that Steeves et al. does not appear to teach either of processor 30 or route calculation and control 36 “controlling multiple forwarding engines,” as the Examiner asserts. Rather, Steeves et al. merely mentions that “processor 30...forwards the packet to one of a plurality of forwarding engines...” (col. 6, lines 22-26, of Steeves et al.). Applicant submits that the Examiner has acknowledged that Dobbins et al. does not expressly disclose what the Examiner regards as the invention claimed in claims 16 and 17 and that the Examiner’s assertions regarding the alleged teachings of Steeves et al. are insufficient to establish unpatentability of claims 16 and 17 over Dobbins et al. in view of Steeves et al. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 16 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

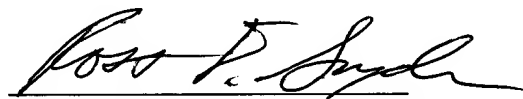
The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al., and further in view of Batz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,918,022). Regarding claims 8 and 23, Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, the Examiner states, "Dobbins in view of Pitcher discloses all of the limitations as recited above with respect to claims 1 and 18, respectively." However, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18. As Applicant states above, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 18, as amended, are allowable over Dobbins et al. in view of Pitcher et al. The Examiner further states, "Dobbins in view of Pitcher does not expressly disclose a tunneling data type." Thus, Applicant submits that none of Dobbins et al., Pitcher et al., nor Batz et al., either alone or in combination, render unpatentable claims 8 or 23. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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Ross D. Snyder, Reg. No. 37,730
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Ross D. Snyder & Associates, Inc.
115 Wild Basin Road, Suite 107
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 347-9223 (phone)
(512) 347-9224 (fax)